



PUBLIC NOTICE

Federal Communications Commission
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FCC ANNOUNCES RECHARTERING OF CONSUMER ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CAC), FORMERLY KNOWN AS THE CONSUMER/DISABILITY TELECOMMUNICATIONS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (C/DTAC); REQUESTS APPLICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP ON CAC

In this Public Notice, the Federal Communications Commission (“Commission”) seeks nominations for membership on its Consumer Advisory Committee (“Committee”), a federal advisory committee that addresses consumer issues within the jurisdiction of the Commission. Applications should be submitted in accordance with the procedures outlined below.

MISSION

The Commission established the Committee in November 2000 for the purpose of making recommendations regarding consumer issues within the jurisdiction of the Commission and to facilitate the participation of consumers (including people with disabilities and underserved populations, such as American Indians and persons living in rural areas) in proceedings before the Commission. *See* Public Notice (rel. Nov. 30, 2000), 15 FCC Rcd 23798, as published in the Federal Register (65 FR 76265, Dec. 6, 2000). On November 20, 2002, the initial Charter of the Committee terminated. The Charter was renewed for another two (2) year term, and the name of the Committee was changed to the Consumer Advisory Committee to better reflect its mandate and activities. The Committee is organized under, and will operate in accordance with, the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, 5 U.S.C. App. 2 (1988).

FUNCTIONS

The Committee will address a number of topics including, but not limited to, the following areas:

- Consumer protection and education (*e.g.*, cramming, slamming, consumer friendly billing, detariffing, bundling of services, Lifeline/Linkup programs, customer service, privacy, telemarketing abuses, and outreach to underserved populations, such as American Indians and persons living in rural areas).
- Access by people with disabilities (*e.g.*, telecommunications relay services, closed

captioning, accessible billing, and access to telecommunications products and services).

- Impact upon consumers of new and emerging technologies (*e.g.*, availability of broadband, digital television, cable, satellite, low power FM, and the convergence of these and emerging technologies).
- Implementation of Commission rules and consumer participation in the FCC rulemaking process.

During calendar year 2003, it is anticipated that the Committee will meet in Washington, D.C. for three one-day meetings on April 11, June 27, and November 14. In addition, as needed, working groups will be established to facilitate the Committee's work between meetings of the full Committee. Meetings will be fully accessible to individuals with disabilities.

Each full Committee meeting will be open to the public. Notice of each meeting will be published in the Federal Register at least fifteen (15) days in advance of the meeting. Records will be maintained of each meeting and made available for public inspection.

MEMBERSHIP

The Commission seeks applications from interested organizations, from both the public and private sectors, that wish to be considered for membership on the Committee. Selections will be made on the basis of factors such as expertise and diversity of viewpoints that are necessary to address effectively the questions before the Committee.

Applicants should be recognized experts in their fields, including, but not limited to, consumer advocacy, disabilities, underserved populations (*e.g.*, persons living in rural areas and tribal communities), telecommunications infrastructure and equipment, telecommunications services (including wireless), and broadcast/cable services.

The number of Committee members will be established to effectively accomplish the Committee's work. Organizations with similar interests are encouraged to nominate one person to represent their interests.

Members must be willing to commit to a two-year term of service, should be willing and able to attend three (3) one-day meetings per year in Washington, D.C., and are also expected to participate in deliberations of at least one working group. The Commission is unable to pay per diem or travel costs.

APPLICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP/ DEADLINE

Applications should be received by the Commission no later than January 31, 2003, and should be sent to the Federal Communications Commission, Consumer & Governmental Affairs

Bureau, Attn.: Scott Marshall, via e-mail at cac@fcc.gov, via facsimile at 202-418-6509, or via U.S. mail at 445 12th Street, S.W., Room 5A824, Washington, D.C. 20554.

Due to the extensive security screening of incoming mail since September 11, 2001, delivery of mail sent to the FCC may be delayed. Therefore, we encourage submission by email or fax. If an application is sent via U.S. mail, we encourage applicants to follow up with a phone call to Scott Marshall, 202-418-2809, or 202-418-0179 (TTY), to confirm receipt.

A specified application form is not required. However, applications should include the name of the organization, the representative's name, the name of an alternate representative, title, address and telephone number, a statement of the interests represented and the issues of interest to the applicant, and a detailed description of the applicant's knowledge and qualifications to serve on the Committee. The application should further be supported by a statement indicating a willingness to serve on the Committee for a two year period of time; a commitment to attend three (3) one-day meetings per year in Washington, D.C. at the applicant's own expense; and a commitment to work on at least one working group. Members will have an initial and continuing obligation to disclose any interests in, or connections to, persons or entities that are, or will be, regulated by or have interests before the Commission.

After the applications have been reviewed, the Commission will publish a notice in the Federal Register announcing the appointment of the Committee members and the first meeting date of the Committee. It is anticipated that the first Committee meeting will take place on April 11, 2003.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Scott Marshall, Consumer & Governmental Affairs Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, 202-418-2809 (voice) or 202-418-0179 (TTY), smarshal@fcc.gov (e-mail).

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